



# **Alaska Alternate Assessment**

## **Quarterly Report**

July 1 through September 30, 2009

Dillard Research Associates  
October 8, 2008

## **Quarterly Report**

July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009

### **Overview**

Over the past quarter, Dillard Research Associates has revised the quality assurance procedures; submitted the Science Technical Report; implemented online systems changes; opened the Assessment system; and co-presented at the New Mentor training on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Accomplishments**

#### **Enhanced Quality Assurance Procedures**

DRA revised and enhanced the quality assurance procedures for proofreading and editing documents, online text and training systems, and production of the Secure Test Documents. Included in the enhancements were improved procedures to assure an error-free set of testing documents for the 2009-2010 test window. Two members of DRA met with two members of EED for a two-day proofreading and editing meeting. After DRA made corrections to the documents, a third-party professional proofreader was employed to edit the documents. DRA made corrections, and reviewed the documents a third time. The completed final version of the test documents will be posted to the online site on January 4, 2010.

#### **Submitted the Technical Report**

The 2008-2009 Technical Report described the history of the Alternate Assessment development in Alaska, training in test administration and scoring, and the system of operational deployment. Technical analysis was provided for Individual grades 3 through 10 in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, and grade bands (3/4, 5/6, 7/8 and 9/10) in those same subjects. Science was analyzed for grades 4, 8, and 10. In addition, Adequate Yearly Progress outcomes were described for all four subject areas.

The Technical Report also described the system employed to develop cousin items to the operational test items used in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 as a prelude to the development of the Form A test version, to be used in 2009-2010. A final chapter described the development of an enhanced web-based system to train Assessors In Training in the administration and scoring of the Alaska Alternate Assessment, and improved proficiency testing in Administration, Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science. The chapter also described improved monitoring tools for Qualified Mentors to use as they mentor and coach their protégés.

#### **Implemented online systems changes**

The online training and proficiency testing system, described above, was made operational in time for the New Mentor Training on September 28 and 29, 2009. Enhancements included:

- Training pages for each issue described in previous years' Alaska Alternate Assessment Manual, making it unnecessary to print the manual
- Improved navigation tools through the online system

- Improved Practice Tests used items that were similar to Alaska's Alternate Assessment.
- Improved video segments for training: Videos portrayed students with significant cognitive delays participating with testing items from Alaska's Practice Test.
- Improved topics for video training: video training included segments portraying the four levels of support in ELOS and giving generalized social praise, and the three-task, three-item rule to move to ELOS. In addition, training sections allow Assessors-In-Training to practice student demographic information entry, and online score entry prior to the testing window.
- Improved subject area practice tests/training: included transcripts of videos, sample student materials, sample scoring protocols, a "check your answers" sheet, and an explanation of the answers as determined by DRA and EED.
- Improved Proficiency Assessments: removed nuanced answers, provided transcripts of the videos, Scoring Protocol and Student Materials for each video. An explanation of answers document was provided to Qualified Assessors to assist them in coaching protégés who did not score 80% on a test.
- Improved tools available to Qualified Mentor-Trainers: QTs can view the number of proficiency tests a protégé has attempted, can view the amount of time a protégé has spent in training, can reset the proficiency test attempts, and can view which questions a protégé passed and did not pass on each proficiency attempt. QTs will be able to see a protégé's progress in entering student demographics during the first two weeks of the testing window, and will be able to track the percent of students who have had test scores input during the window.

### **Opened the Assessment System**

The enhanced online training and proficiency testing system opened on September 27<sup>th</sup> for the New Mentor Training in Juneau on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. During training, a few errors were noted by participants, particularly in the Writing proficiency testing. Those errors were recorded and fixed during training. Participants commented that the training system was rigorous, and participants who had taken part in previous trainings with the older system commented that the new system was much improved from a user's point of view.

### **Co-presented at the New Mentor training on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**

Jerry Tindal and Kim Sherman from DRA co-presented with Aran Felix (EED) at the New Mentor Training in Juneau on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Sheri Mangini (EED) assisted.

The New Mentor Training employed a revised system, designed to provide the training and require participants to administer practice tests during the two-day training. In the past, training focused on understanding the administration and scoring of the Alaska Alternate Assessment; participants then needed to return to their school districts, administer the practice tests and have their practice tests scored for accurate administration and scoring by DRA. After completing these steps, the Assessor-In-Training graduated to Qualified Assessor, and was certified to administer the Alternate Assessment. Qualified Assessors could attend the All Mentor Training sessions, then

train a protégé. After their protégé's work is evaluated by DRA, the Qualified Assessor may become certified as a Qualified Mentor-Trainer.

By including the practice test portion of the requirements in the two-day training, participants did not need to return to their districts, find a testing subject, and administer the practice tests while juggling full time teaching responsibilities. Participants reported satisfaction with this new system; EED also benefitted by knowing that participants left training having completed all necessary steps. Pending verification of the practice test administration and scoring by DRA, all participants were certified as Qualified Assessors.



## **Alaska Alternate Assessment**

### **Quarterly Report**

October 1 through December 31, 2009

Dillard Research Associates  
October 8, 2008

## **Quarterly Report**

October 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

### **Overview**

Over the past quarter, Dillard Research Associates has assisted EED in conducting the All Mentor Training, made corrections to the online training website, held webinars for returning mentors, completed the Form A tests, populated the Directory of Test Specifications with 09/10 statistics and 10/11 items, reformatted the Ideas and Organization scoring rubric, co-drafted the Peer Review administration observation proposal. Finally, DRA and EED were accepted to present at the Council for Exceptional Children National Conference.

### **Accomplishments**

#### **Held Webinars for Returning Mentors**

DRA hosted two formal and two informal webinars for Qualified Mentor-Trainers to preview the updated training and proficiency site prior to All Mentor Training. Qualified Mentor-Trainers were required to complete on-line training and pass all proficiency tests prior to attending the All Mentor Training on October 26 and 27.

#### **Co-conducted All Mentor Training**

DRA co-presented at the two day All Mentor Training in Anchorage, October 26 and 27, 2010. The first day of the training focused on preparing new and experienced mentors to train other district personnel in becoming qualified assessors, providing updates to the online training and proficiency website, providing mentors with strategies to train and monitor protégés in accurate administration and score reporting, and to receive program evaluations and recommendations for improvement from the qualified mentors.

The second day, October 27, consisted of score consistency data collection, accommodations and modifications training, and elicited feedback from the mentors to proposed administration fidelity observations and data.

#### **Completed corrections to the online training website**

DRA completed corrections to the online training website, and minor grammatical edits to proficiency exams.

#### **Reformatted the Ideas and Organization scoring rubric**

In response to feedback from the Mentors at the All Mentor Training, the Ideas and Organization scoring rubric for writing was reformatted into two columns, similar to the scoring rubric from previous years.

#### **Completed the Form A tests**

The Form A test booklets were edited in Quarter 1; final corrected versions of the 2010-2011 tests are currently posted to the secure file transfer site for inspection,

and will be posted on the AK Test Website on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, for download by Qualified Assessors and Qualified Mentor-Trainers on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Populated the Directory of Test Specifications with 09/10 statistics and 10/11 items**

The Directory of Test Specifications (DOT) documents have been updated to include item statistics from the 2009-2010 test. In addition, each item used in the 2008-2009, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011 test have been added to the DOTs, and each item has a unique identifier number attached to it. This will allow items to be compared over time, and over different versions of the tests.

**Co-drafted the Peer Review administration observation proposal**

DRA continues to support EED in developing a plan to verify fidelity of administration of the Alaska Alternate Assessments as administered to students during the testing window.

**Proposal accepted to present at the Council for Exceptional Children National Conference.**

Jerry Tindal submitted a proposal (which was accepted) for DRA and EED to co-present at the Council for Exceptional Children National Conference. The proposal was accepted, a presentation titled: Collecting and Using Procedural Evidence to Support the Validity of Inferences of Proficiency in Alternate Assessments

From the proposal abstract:

The focus of this session is on the data collection process ensuring the soundness of inferences on proficiency. Steps are identified that have proven problematic in not only understanding student proficiency but also improving programs and outcomes. The presenters consider designing alternate assessments (blueprint and alignment with state standards), training teachers and monitoring data collection during the test window, and finally assembling evidence to depict the relation of outcomes to process. Using the alternate assessment from the Alaska Education and Early Development (EED), the presenters provide attendees with an exploratory review of the documentation provided for peer review.



## **Alaska Alternate Assessment**

### **Quarterly Report**

January 1 through March 31, 2010

Third Quarter

Dillard Research Associates  
October 8, 2008



## **Quarterly Report**

January 1 through March 31, 2010

### **Overview**

Over the past quarter, Dillard Research Associates has assisted EED in

### **Accomplishments**

Over the past quarter, Dillard Research Associates has assisted EED in completing an inter-rater reliability report from All Mentor Training, conducting a webinar to Qualified Trainer-Mentors (QT), opening the online Alternate Assessment system, delivering Braille and Large Print versions of the Alternate Assessment test documents, updating the District Test Coordinator password file, co-planning and participating in the Science test administration observations, correcting errors on specific Alternate Assessment test documents, and developing a more detailed quality assurance schedule.

### **Inter rater statistics from All Mentor training**

DRA compiled the statistical results from All Mentor Training reliability study. Reliability of scoring to the standard was determined by presenting sample “student” responses in Reading, Writing and Mathematics test items. All mentors at the training independently scored the responses. Mentor scoring sheets were collected. DRA analyzed mentor scores for consistency and agreement, and reported the results to EED for inclusion in EED’s response to the Peer Review Committee.

### **Webinar**

DRA and EED hosted two webinars for Qualified Mentor-Trainers prior to opening the online Alternate Assessment window. The webinars were designed to update QTs on changes to the website, to familiarize the QTs with the online reports available to them, and to remind QTs of important dates and tasks.

DRA also hosted two individual coaching webinars for QTs who were unable to attend the large group webinars.

### **Opened online system**

DRA opened the online Alternate Assessment system on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 for the QTs to preview the system. The system opened for all Qualified Assessors and Qualified Mentor-Trainers on February 4, 2010.

### **Braille and large print test forms**

On February 6, 2010, DRA mailed Braille and Large Print test forms directly to the District Test Coordinators of districts that had requested these formats.

### **Updated DTC password file (available to DTCs at February training)**

DRA updated the District Test Coordinator passwords for access to the Score Reporting website. These passwords were delivered to DTCs at their annual February training.

### **Co-planned and participated in Science Test administration observations**

DRA co-planned and participated in observing Qualified Assessors as they administered the Science Alternate Assessment. Only QAs who had volunteered and who would assess eighth grade students were observed. Aran Felix (EED) and Kim Sherman (DRA) observed assessors and students in Fairbanks and Anchorage during the week of March 15 through 18). Aran Felix also observed assessments in other districts. In other districts, QTs served as the observer.

DRA is compiling the results of these observations. The report will be available for the CEC conference presentation, and to present to the TAC in May.

### **Corrected errors on alternate assessment documents**

After the window opened, errors were reported on the test that would have compromised results for those tasks/items. DRA and EED determined to make corrections to the test documents, and to alert the assessors of the errors and the corrections.

Writing, Grades 3/4, Scoring Protocol Task 1.34C: The task should have been for students to write their first name. The test incorrectly directed students to write their first and last name. The documents were corrected to require first name only, and assessors who had already administered this item were instructed to rescore this item to obtain a score based only on the student's first name.

Reading Grades 7/8, Scoring Protocols for Task 2.78B, Item 2): Item 2 should have read, "Tell/Show me the beginning of the story." The document incorrectly read "Tell/Show me the ending of the story." The document was corrected.

Math Grades 9/10, Scoring Protocols for Task 6.910A and Student Materials for Task 6.910A-D: The Math Task 6.910 Student Materials were mislabeled; they should have been labeled as:

6.910A - Describe and Compare Shapes / Shapes Greater Than, Less Than, Equal To

6.910B - Lines of Symmetry

6.910C - Identify Perimeter

The document was corrected.

### **Developed more detailed quality assurance schedule**

To prevent the future need to correct test documents after the testing window opens, DRA has developed a more detailed quality assurance plan, with a greater number of independent, outside proofreaders involved in document development.



## **Alaska Alternate Assessment**

### **Quarterly Report**

March 31 through June 30, 2010

Fourth Quarter

Dillard Research Associates  
July 2, 2010

## **Quarterly Report**

March 31 through June 30, 2010

### **Accomplishments**

Over the past quarter, Dillard Research Associates has assisted EED in completing the tasks related to assessing students with significant cognitive delays and in producing the year-end reports related to student performance and AYP calculations.

#### **Completed 2009-2010 Assessment Tasks**

The Alaska Alternate Assessment testing window closed at 11PM AST on April 16, 2010. To ensure a complete data set, DRA conducted a preliminary analysis of the data during the week of April 5 to identify QAs and QTs who either had not yet entered student demographic data, had not chosen the "Submit Data" button on the web page, or had entered a birth dates that seemed anomalous to the student's enrolled grade. During the last week of the test window (April 11 through April 16), DRA followed up with emails to QAs and QTs urging them to complete data entry and "Submit Data." One teacher (three students) did not complete the data entry. All other Alaska Alternate Assessors submitted scores for all students on their caseload.

#### **Conducted Score-Behind Study**

In March 2010, Kim Sherman and Aran Felix, as well as volunteer Qualified Trainers, participated in a score-behind reliability study of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students assessed with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Alternate Assessment in Science. Data were collected and analyzed by DRA. EED included this study, along with the reliability studies conducted at New Mentor and Annual Mentor Training, in their response to the Peer Review and in information provided to the Alaska Technical Advisory Board.

#### **Participated in planning for 2010-2011**

On May 19, Kim Sherman, Jerry Tindal (DRA) met with Aran Felix to identify changes and improvements to the online training, score entry, and reporting functions of the Alaska Alternate Assessment, and to discuss development of Form B of the Assessment. As a result of this meeting, a budget proposal and deliverables matrix were developed and accepted by EED.

#### **Presented to May 20 TAC**

Jerry Tindal and Kim Sherman (DRA) joined with Aran Felix (EED) to present findings from several studies and analyses to the May 11, 2010 TAC Meeting. Topics included (1) Developing new forms of the Alternate Assessment; and (2) Evidence of inter-rater consistency in scoring the Alternate Assessment through a study of time spent in training, new mentor test administration and scoring proficiency, a study of live test administration, and an analysis of the consequential survey results.

**Participated in Functional Specifications Document planning meeting**

On May 21, Aran Felix and Kristine Gaffaney (EED) met with Kim Sherman (DRA) to discuss the format and content of the Functional Specifications Document. This document is not complete; the task carries forward to the first quarter of FY11.

**Completed AYP File**

DRA completed the computations, record merging, and internal verification required to meet the 2009-2010 AYP file deliverable. The file was uploaded to the secure transfer server (filename: AKAA\_0910\_AYP\_v2.xls, located in the 0910\_Reports\_and\_Data\_Files directory).

**Completed Individual Student Reports, made available to District Test Coordinators**

DRA updated and uploaded final student reports and guides to test interpretation to the DRA Secure Reporting Website for district/DTC download, a task which carries forward to FY11 is to develop tabs on the Reporting Site to include a Contacts tab and a Materials (Guides) tab.

**Completed Research Data File**

DRA submitted the Research Data File to EED: uploaded to the secure file site (Folder: "0910\_Reports\_and\_Data\_Files" – filename: "AK\_AA\_0910\_StudentData\_v1.xls")

**Submitted online system code**

DRA Submit all online system code, video files, picture files of online test and reporting systems to EED. The backup file was uploaded to the secure site (Folder: "0910\_Reports\_and\_Data\_Files" – filename: "akaa\_eed\_backup\_0910.tar.gz").

**Completed Form B test materials for summer editing**

Form B test materials were developed throughout the year, using operational items and unused field test items. The draft documents underwent four levels of proofreading at DRA and were then released to four Alaska Qualified Assessors / Qualified Mentors who agreed to proofread and administer the assessments in order to provide feedback to DRA regarding ease of administration, clarity of wording, accuracy of scoring, and other editing issues. These four have agreed to return the edited versions to DRA by July 10.